

Application No. 10/054,522  
Filed: January 22, 2002  
Group Art Unit: 2151

In the Claims

~~Please rewrite the indicated claims to read as follows:~~

1. A method for identifying a physical address associated with a virtual address, wherein said physical address is associated with a network interface of a network device, wherein said virtual address is also associated with said network device, comprising:

A1 forming a request message, said request message including said virtual address and a virtual network identifier value, wherein said virtual network identifier value is stored in a field within a header of said request message separate from said virtual address, said virtual network identifier value associated with a virtual network, said virtual network having a private address space including said virtual address;

transmitting said request message over a communication link; receiving a response to said request message, said response including said physical address associated with said network interface of said network device; and

storing said physical address of said network device associated with said virtual address in an entry in a data structure, wherein said entry further includes said virtual network identifier and said virtual address.

A2 Cm.T 8. A system for identifying a physical address associated with a virtual address, wherein said physical address is associated with a network interface of a network device, wherein said virtual address is also associated with said network device, comprising:

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at least one memory for storing program code;  
at least one processor, communicably coupled to said memory,  
said at least one processor operable to execute program code  
stored in said memory;

program code, stored in said memory, said program code for  
identifying said physical address associated with said virtual  
address, said program code including

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program code for forming a request message, said request  
message including said virtual address and a virtual network  
identifier value, wherein said virtual network identifier  
value is stored in a field within a header of said request  
message separate from said virtual address, said virtual  
network identifier value associated with a virtual network,  
said virtual network having a private address space including  
said virtual address,

program code for transmitting said request message over  
a communication link,

program code for receiving a response to said request  
message, said response including said physical address  
associated with said network interface of said network  
device, and

program code for storing said physical address of said  
network device associated with said virtual address in an  
entry in a data structure, wherein said entry further  
includes said virtual network identifier and said virtual  
address.

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15. A system for identifying a physical address associated with a  
virtual address, wherein said physical address is associated with

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a network interface of a network device, wherein said virtual address is also associated with said network device, comprising:

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means for forming a request message, said request message including said virtual address and a virtual network identifier value, wherein said virtual network identifier value is stored in a field within a header of said request message separate from said virtual address, said virtual network identifier value associated with a virtual network, said virtual network having a private address space including said virtual address;

means for transmitting said request message over a communication link;

means for receiving a response to said request message, said response including said physical address associated with said network interface of said network device; and

means for storing said physical address of said network device associated with said virtual address in an entry in a data structure, wherein said entry further includes said virtual network identifier and said virtual address.